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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08049.0011

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|                             |   |                            |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| In re Application of:       | ) |                            |
|                             | ) |                            |
| Oscar Lee AVANT et al.      | ) | Group Art Unit: 3653       |
|                             | ) |                            |
| Application No.: 09/652,707 | ) | Examiner: Daniel K. Schlak |
|                             | ) |                            |
| Filed: August 31, 2000      | ) |                            |
|                             | ) |                            |
| For: APPARATUS AND METHODS  | ) | Confirmation No.: 3487     |
| FOR PROCESSING MAILPIECE    | ) |                            |
| INFORMATION BY AN           | ) |                            |
| IDENTIFICATION CODE SERVER  | ) |                            |

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents, including any copending patent applications, are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

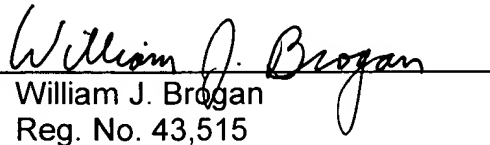
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: August 26, 2004

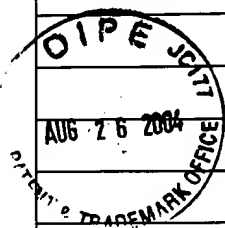
By:   
William J. Brogan  
Reg. No. 43,515

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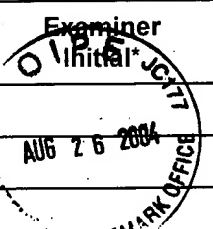
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| Examiner   | Date Considered   |
| <p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p> |   |
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